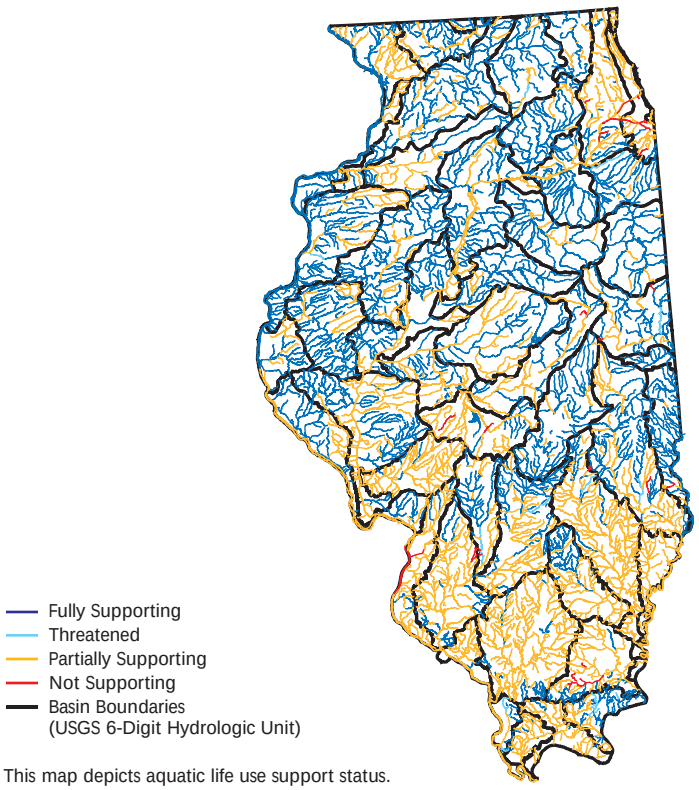
Illinois



This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the Illinois 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Overall water quality has steadily improved over the past 26 years since enactment of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act. Trend analysis generally indicates stable or improving trends in stream concentrations of ammonia consistent with the continued decline in point source impacts. However, dissolved oxygen depletion and ammonia still impair streams, as do nutrients, siltation, habitat/flow alterations, metals, and suspended solids. The State is also concerned about upward trends in nutrient concentrations detected in several basins that probably result from nonpoint sources. Other major sources of river pollution include persistent point sources, hydrologic/habitat modification, urban runoff, and resource extraction.

Trend analysis also indicates improving water quality in lakes. The most prevalent causes of remaining pollution in lakes include nutrients, suspended solids, and siltation. The most prevalent sources of pollution in lakes include contaminated sediments, agriculture, and hydrologic/habitat alterations.

Trend analysis of lake water quality showed that the quality of many Illinois lakes is fluctuating or declining. Those lakes that have improved in water quality have generally had special in-lake restoration techniques or intensive watershed management projects implemented.

Ground Water Quality

Ground water quality is generally good, but past and present activities contaminate ground water in isolated areas. Ground water is contaminated around leaking underground gasoline storage tanks, large aboveground petroleum storage facilities, agricultural chemical operations, salt piles, landfills, and waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Bureau of Water, is committed to implementing a Targeted Watershed Approach in which high-risk watersheds are identified, prioritized, and selected

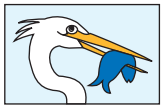
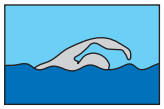
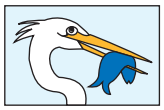
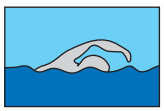
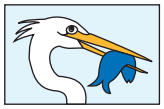
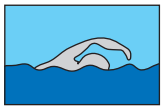
for integrated and cooperative assessment and protection. This approach represents an expansion and evolution of their previous efforts in geographic targeting. Current nonpoint source program activities focus on improving public awareness and adding land use data to the nonpoint source database available statewide.

Illinois established a Great Lakes Program Office in FY93 to oversee all Lake Michigan programs on a multimedia basis. Activities include promotion of pollution prevention for all sources of toxics in all media (such as air and water).

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Ongoing monitoring programs include ambient and toxicity monitoring, pesticide monitoring, intensive river basin surveys, fish contaminant monitoring, and volunteer lake monitoring. These programs generate a rich inventory of monitoring data for assessing water quality conditions across the State.

Individual Use Support in Illinois

Designated Use[a]		Percent				
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good Threatened	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 87,110)[b]						
	Total Miles Surveyed 28,454	54	1	45	1	-
	3,775	81	0	0	19	-
	3,457	30	0	36	34	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 309,340)						
	Total Acres Surveyed 188,069	68	10	20	3	-
	127,814	77	0	14	9	-
	188,243	18	6	47	30	-
Great Lakes (Total Shore Miles = 63)						
	Total Square Miles Surveyed 63	0	100	0	0	0
	63	0	0	0	100	0
	63	79	0	21	0	0

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Illinois' designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.